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a full history of each species, instead of merely a sketch of its characteristics as seen in the "Land of flowers." This method will, of course, increase the value of the work to the general reader. The title * quite fully indicates its general character, as far as the more technical part is concerned, but the "notes on their habits" are really very satisfactory and concise biographical sketches, written in an exceedingly clear and pleasing style. With them are incidentally incorporated, as occasion offers, graphic and more or less extended delineations of the peculiar natural features of the country — of the Pine Barrens, the Everglades and the Keys. The matter is arranged under distinct heads, and the biographical part is further distinguished from the rest by being printed in larger type. The descriptions are well drawn, and unusual attention is paid to the different states of plumage depending upon age and sex. The work is thoroughly original, and almost every page contains some interesting fact relating to habits or particular phases of plumage not previously chronicled. The dimensions given are usually the average of a considerable series of specimens. While not wholly above criticism in respect to a few minor points, the work is not only an attractive one but a valuable contribution to ornithological literature. Its typographical execution is exceedingly neat, and the plates, judging from the specimen number, are very creditable productions.—J. A. A.

THE SCIOPTICON MANUAL.†—The appearance of a new and revised edition of this book gives occasion to say that both it and the apparatus which it describes will be found of great service to those who are desirous of illustrating optically (by diagrams, pictures and experiments) their scientific teaching, but who are shut off by their limited means from the purchase of the more expensive calcium and electric lanterns. For a class room or school laboratory, Mr. Marcy's Sciopticon will supply an excellent means of demonstration. It is likely that the use of the modern demonstrating lantern will continually increase the very brilliant results attained by Profs. Morton and Tyndall, being quite sufficient to

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* The Birds of Florida, containing Original Descriptions of upwards of Two Hundred and Fifty Species, with Notes on their Habits, etc. By C. J. Maynard. With Five Plates, drawn and colored from Nature, by Helen S. Farley. Salem, Naturalists' Agency, 1872. Part I, 4to, pp. 32, and one plate. October, 1872.

† The Sciopticon Manual: explaining Marcy's New Magic Lantern and Light, including Magic Lantern Optics, Experiments, Photographing and Coloring Slides, etc., by L. J. Marcy, optician, 1340 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Revised ed., 1872. Price 50 cents.

excite enthusiasm among all educators and lecturers. Mr. Marcy seems to have done the best that can be accomplished with coal oil as a source of light; and he constructs a very powerful lamp for this purpose, with this especial merit in its plan, that it has no chimney to be broken otherwise to annoy the operator. Besides the description and figures of the Sciopticon, the manual contains very full direction for experimenting, photographing and otherwise preparing slides, etc. One chapter is contributed by Prof. Henry Morton, the most successful American demonstrator and experimenter with the lantern.—E. C. B.

BOTANY.

THE HORSE DISEASE. —Referring to the communication in the February number (pp. 120–123), as Mr. Morehouse found that many of the organisms he represents were present in the air of the stable, he should now, when the disease has passed, as soon as possible expose similar glass slides to the same conditions, — so as to ascertain whether these organisms are not still there. Upon the result of this the whole importance of the observations depends.

While the pen is in hand, we beg to dissent from the idea that lichens are parasitic and have no chlorophyl (p. 67); and no less from the statement that the "plants are very few" which require the aid of insects to secure fertilization, and which attract them by their bright colors; and that most flowers could accomplish their destined purpose just as well were they clad in the drab of the veriest Quaker (p. 70). The young people who read "How Plants Behave" will know better. — A. G.

THE CRETACEOUS FLORA OF NORTH GREENLAND.—Among the interesting collections which the Swedish polar expedition of 1870 brought to Europe was a fine suite of fossil plants, collected at the desire of Dr. O. Heer, in Zürich, who in his "Flora Fossilis Arctica" proved that certain black shales at Kome, north of the peninsula Noursoak, belonged to the Cretaceous series. This is now conclusively proved. The specimens brought from Kome are forty-three in number, among which Dr. Heer recognizes *Filices*, *Rhizocarpeæ*, *Equisetaceæ*, *Cycadeæ*, *Coniferæ*, *Monocotyledones*, and *Dicotyledones*. The Ferns are very numerous, *Gleichenia* being peculiarly abundant. The *Cycadeæ* and *Coniferæ* are also repre-